

A TRUE  
STATE of the CASE

In Respect to the late

DISPUTES

IN THE

Parish of St. *Leonard's Shoreditch,*

Concerning the

POOR'S RATES,

WITH

A Narrative of the Proceedings both in the  
*King's-Bench* and at *Hicks's-Hall, &c.*

WITH

Some OBSERVATIONS thereon,

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By a PARISHIONER.

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A true STATE of the CASE in respect  
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Parish of St. *Leonard's, Shoreditch*, concerning the POOR'S  
RATES, &c.

**T**HE late Disputes in the Parish of  
St. *Leonard's, Shoreditch*, concern-  
ing the Poor's Rates, and the  
Distresses that have been made on several of  
the Inhabitants, for the Non-payment there-  
of; and the Proceedings that have been  
had thereon, having made a great Noise in  
the Neighbourhood, it may not be unne-  
cessary to lay the genuine State of the Case  
before them, that they may from thence  
form a true Judgment of the real Merits of it.

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The Parish being large, is separated into three Divisions, in which are six Overseers of the Poor, two to each Division : And there are moreover two Churchwardens : And when an Over-rate to the Poor hath been made, there have usually been added one Sidesman to each Division to collect the same.

It hath been customary in the said Parish to make what they call Discretionary Rates for the Relief of the Poor ; but these have been so extremely partial, and unequal, that many Attempts have been made to procure a Pound Rate in lieu thereof : But the great Number of Inhabitants who keep Shops, and publick Houses, and Possessors of Lands, whose Rents and Estates are large, and pay but little to these discretionary Rates in proportion to what they would do, if a fair Pound Rate was to be made, have hitherto by mere Dint of Numbers prevailed in favour of the discretionary Ones.

No Over-rates had been made for several Years before 1739, when there was one  
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then made for six Months. In 1740 another was made for ten Months. In 1741 another for the whole Year. And in 1742 another for nine Months. These four Over-rates amounted to about 3000 *l.* exclusive of the standing Rates: An Over-rate for six Months, being just as much as a standing Rate for that Time.

These Over-rates coming so frequently, and being withal so very burthensom, several of the Inhabitants in *April* 1743, appealed not only against the Over-rate for 1742, but against the standing Rates too, as being both unjust and unequal.

On an Hearing at *Hicks's Hall*, the Appellants were ordered to be relieved as to themselves, but no farther, the Appeal coming in so late: But the Chairman, (Mr. *Lane*) admonished the Officers to make no such Rates for the future, and asked them how they could judge of the real Abilities of any Man.

Soon after this, two quarterly Rates were made, *viz.* from *Lady Day* to *Midsummer*,

and from *Midsummer* to *Michaelmas* 1743; But these being made in Defiance of the Recommendation of the Court, in the same Model as those before, and being so very partial and unequal, Mr. C—nd—r himself (one of the Justices of the Peace residing in the Parish, and who had all along publicly declared for a Pound Rate) did not only refuse to sign, but to pay either of them: On which Account, Mr. D——r, one of the Overseers, marked him down with a Pencil in the Book of Rates, *Won't pay*. However these two Rates being but single ones were generally paid by the Inhabitants, (Mr. C—nd—r and a very few others excepted.)

About the 28th of *December* 1743, another quarterly Rate was made, *viz.* from *Michaelmas* to *Christmas*; but this was a double Rate, and signed by Mr. C—nd—r himself, though he would not sign, and had absolutely refused to pay either of the two former single ones. This alarmed the Inhabitants to a great Degree, and more especially

cially as a double Rate should be now made again, when it was notoriously known what great Sums lay uncollected for the Over-rate for 1742, as well as for 1741 and 1740: And that not one of the Churchwardens, Overseers, or Sidesmen for the Year 1742, had passed any of their Accounts, nor any Care had been taken by the Justices that they should so do; though the Law required it should be done in four Days after they were out of their Offices, and which some of them were ready to have done, if they had been properly called thereto.

Several of the Inhabitants who had paid all the Over-rates before, and knowing that many others, though of good Abilities, had not paid the Over-rates for 1742, (nor even for 1741 or 1740) refused to pay this last quarterly double Rate, except others paid as well as themselves. On which the two Justices, who had signed the Books of Rates, thought fit to sign Warrants of Distress against their Neighbours for this last double  
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Rate ; although one of the said Justices himself was in Arrears from *Lady Day* to *Michaelmas* 1743, and had absolutely refused to pay the same. And the other was several Pounds in Arrears even for the single Rates for 1742.

In pursuance of these Warrants several Distresses were levied about the 28th of *March* 1744. On which one of Mr. *C—nd—r*'s Neighbours went to him, and told him, that he thought it extremely hard, that a Distress should be levied on him, who had never refused to pay any Rate before, and especially as this was a double one, and when it was so well known what great Numbers of the Inhabitants had not as yet paid the Over-rate for 1742. To which Mr. *C—nd—r* replied, that he thought the Rates were indeed very partial, and unequal, and that he had always been for a Pound Rate himself: And that if an Appeal was made to the next Quarter Sessions, he did not know but the Rate might be set aside.

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About *March* 31, 1744, the Quarterly Rate from *Christmas* to *Lady Day* 1744, was confirmed by the two aforesaid Justices, but this was a single one. On *April* the 17th, several Summons's were issued to shew Cause on the 18th, why Distresses should not be levied for that Quarter, though in one of the Districts not one of the Overseers had so much as been in the Neighbourhood to demand it. On *April* the 18th several of the Inhabitants attended the Justices, and some of them gave Notice in Writing of their Intentions to appeal. On *April* the 20th abundance of Distresses were actually levied; though the Rate itself was confirmed but a few Days before. This was such an hasty and arbitrary Proceeding, as is, I believe, without Precedent.

The Distresses for both these Quarters were levied with the greatest Violence, Oppression, and Injustice, as perhaps were ever heard of before. The Officers being encouraged by the Justices Warrants, and by the exprefs Order of one of them in particular

cular to spare nobody, (though both the said Justices were at the same time in Ar-rears to the Poor themselves) came with their Attendants, to the Number of nine or ten of them in a Body, and entered the Houses of the Inhabitants more like *Croats* and *Pandours*, than *Christians* and *Englishmen*; (nay the very Beadles themselves were not wanting in their Insults;) and by the Rudeness of their Conduct spread Terror into Families wherever they came, and more especially so, when none but Women and Children were at home. If the outer Door happened to be shut, or they could not find an easy Access into the House, they used Violence, either by breaking of Sashes, and attempting to get in that way, or by taking out a Pane of Glass from the Window, and then opening the Casement, and so getting in, and then unlocking the outer Door to let the rest of their Comrades in too; or by getting over Walls and Fences backwards, and so entering the Houses that way, as was done  
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at Mr. P——e's at *Hoxton*, who was then very ill, and on his Wife's only attempting to shut the Parlour Door, one of the Overseers struck her a slap in the Face, and another squeezed her Arm in that manner, that the Marks of both were very visible the next Day.

And as the Entries they made in several Places were boisterous and illegal, so were the Distresses too, than which nothing could be more cruel: For instead of taking what they thought would least oppress the Inhabitants, they, generally speaking, took what they thought would most injure them, even in their very Utensils in Trade, viz.

From an Apothecary they took his large Pestle and Mortar, though he had paid all the Over-rates before, and what they demanded for this last double Rate was but thirteen Shillings.

From a Butcher, who likewise keeps a Cook's Shop, they took away his two Clevers which cost twenty two Shillings;  
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and then pulled down his iron Racks on which he roasted his Meat, though they were strongly fixed to the Wall, and weighed above eighty Pound, and carried them off, though the double Rate they demanded was but nine Shillings and nine Pence, and they might have had other Goods if they pleased.

From a poor Man, not worth ten Pound in the World, whom they had the Conscience to Rate at sixteen Pence per Week to the standing Rate, though Mr. C——nd——r himself paid but nine Pence, and not one of themselves paid above three Pence, four Pence half-penny, or six Pence at the most, they not only took away his Pots in which he dressed his Meat, and other useful Things, but with Instruments pulled down his Grate which was fixed to the Wall, having first taken the Fire out of it themselves ; although they might have taken other Things in the room thereof. And although the Man earnestly begged that they  
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would not pull down his Grate, and would give him but an Hour or two's Time to borrow the Money that he might pay them; yet no Intreaties could prevail: Away they carried his Goods, nay even some Things too, that were not included in the Inventory they left.

To enumerate the various Cruelties they have been guilty of would be endless.

When they had levied their Distresses in this rude and unwarrantable Manner, against whom they thought fit, and had filled the Workhouse with Goods, especially with Kitchen Furniture: Behold the Manner in which they pretended to make Sale of them! On *Saturday, April* the 28th, (though the Overseers had been out of their Office ever since the 23d) the common Crier went about the Parish and cried these Goods to be sold at Auction on *Monday* the 30th, at the Workhouse, which was without Precedent; and had a particular Direction given him to cry them at the Doors of those they had so outrageously

abused ; and in particular, having taken a Piece of Plate from a Person who had never refused the Payment of any Rate before, it was, by Order, cried with a particular Description of it, not only at his own Door, but all over the Parish, on purpose to insult and abuse him : And even this was a considerable Time after he had given the Justices and them publick Notice, in Writing, of his Appeal.

Two Persons were appointed to appraise these Goods who lived out of the Parish, and this under a Pretence of Impartiality ; though it is notoriously known that they were not appraised to near their Value. On *Monday, April* the 30th, the Goods were pretended to be disposed of ; great Quantities of which were bought in fictitious Names, and in particular for one of the Overseers who is a Broker, and afterwards were carried to his own Shop, and disposed of to great Advantage to himself, though to the great Prejudice of those from whom they were taken. The two Clevers  
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and iron Ranges that were taken from the Butcher, and cost at least fifty Shillings at first, were appraised, and sold to one of the Overseers but at about six Shillings; and so did this Man, in Proportion, buy great Quantities of other Goods, being himself the most busy in levying the Distresses of any amongst the Overseers: And although the said Butcher afterwards gave the said Overseer eleven Shillings for the Goods again, which was more than his Rate came to, yet hath he Credit in the Parish Books but for six Shillings: And now stands Debtor to the said Rate in three Shillings and nine Pence! The Overseer having put the rest into his own Pocket! The Piece of Plate beforementioned was appraised but at five Shillings per Ounce, when any Goldsmith or Refiner would not have offered less than five Shillings and seven Pence Halfpenny for it. In short, this pretended Sale hath been conducted in such an oppressive Manner as to require the strictest Enquiry to be made

into it, especially by those whose Goods were said to be sold thereat.

When the Officers acted in this daring Manner, they boasted they had the Parish Money in their Hands to defend them, and would keep it for that Purpose, and seemingly bid Defiance to any Body to attack them : But the Accounts being now, by Order, taken, and their Balances to be transferred into proper Hands, the Scene as to the Public Money to defend them may be at an End, notwithstanding all their arbitrary and insignificant Orders of Vestry to support them.

According to the Notice given on the 20th of *April*, by several of the Inhabitants, that they did intend to appeal against the two aforesaid Rates; an Appeal was tendered and read at *Hicks's Hall*, on *May* the 8th, which was the first Day of the adjourned Sessions. There were then six Justices on the Bench, of which Mr. *C—nd—r* was one : According to the Rules of the Court, and of Law, and Equity,



quity, Mr. C—nd—r, who had not only signed those two Rates that were appealed against, but had likewise signed all the Warrants of Distress, ought in Justice and Decency to have retired; and not made himself both a Party and a Judge: But instead of retiring, he busily and unwarrantably presided in the Chair, and acted in that Manner, that the Appeal was rejected, and only for this Reason, (if his Affidavit in the Court of *King's Bench* can be relied on) because the Appeal was not presented in due Time. A Pretence that had not the least Shadow of Law, or Reason to support it; for it is most notorious that it was lodged in every Instance as the Law directed: And it was afterwards unanimously so adjudged by all the Judges that sat on the *King's Bench*. Hereupon the Appellants were reduced to this Dilemma, either to sit down quietly under such a *flat Denial of Justice*, or to apply at a great Expence to the Court of *King's Bench* for a *Mandamus* to compel the Justices to hear the Merits

rits of the said Appeal. The Appellants made Choice of the latter, and on a full hearing the Court ordered a *Mandamus* against them.

In Pursuance of which the *Mandamus* was brought down, and the Appeal presented at the Quarter Sessions at *Hicks's Hall*, on *Tuesday* the 26th of *June*. It was received, and ordered to be heard on the 28th. Although the Time was somewhat shorter than usual for the Examination of Books, and preparing Briefs, &c. yet the Appellants were ready at the Time appointed. The Cause came on, and when the Appellants had good Reason to think, by the Measures they had taken, that they were so close in Pursuit of Justice, that they could not fail to overtake her : How slippery were the Paths that should have led unto her ! Not arising from any just or real Defence that the Defendants could have made ; but being wretchedly betrayed by the Man on whom the Appellants chiefly relied. When their Briefs were so full,  
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their Evidence so clear and exprefs (if they could have been heard out) as to have shewn the great Injustice, and glaring Inequalities of the Rates beyond the Possibility of a Reply: How short, how surprizingly were they stopped, when no more than one of their Witnesses had been examined? One of the Appellants Counsel, whom they had retained from the Beginning, and who had behaved in the Court of *King's Bench* with a just Warmth becoming his Station, and the Equity of the Cause, after he had examined but one Witness, instead of going on to examine the others as it was expected he would have done, at once most abruptly, and unworthily proposed an Accommodation, without the least previous Knowledge or Consent of either of the Appellants. This was both amazing and shocking; but the Alarm was instantly taken, and in such a Manner as it was plain to every one that the Scheme had been concerted before: And though it was desired, and insisted on by one of

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the Appellants that was nearest to him, that he would proceed to examine the Witnesses; yet how ungenerously did he behave, as it were by throwing up his Brief, and as good as telling the Appellants at once, that if you will not submit to what I propose (for I am in haste) *I won't plead?* Indeed the Appellants other Counsel, who had his Brief but a few Hours before, offered to proceed, if the Appellants insisted it should be so, which one of them that was nearest to him absolutely did: But the unaccountable Behaviour of the other, and the great Disorder he seemed to be in, and the Clamour arising in the Court for an Accommodation, rendered it almost impracticable to have proceeded in that calm and decent Manner as the Case really required: So that the Appellants being as it were forced to the Necessity of accepting of an Accommodation, or, as they apprehended, to have had one of their own Counsel rather against them than for them: It was at last agreed, but ex-



ceedingly against the Will of the Appellants, that the Petition and Appeal should be dismissed: But on these Conditions, That the Accounts of the Parish which had lain a long Time unadjusted, should for the Years 1742 and 1743 be settled by six Justices of the Peace who lived out of the Parish; and that this should be done before any other new Rate should be made. And moreover that a Pound Rate for the Relief of the Poor should be made for the future, respect being had to personal Estates likewise: And this was solemnly ordered, and recommended by the Court, to preserve the Peace and Unanimity of the Parish for the future.

But no sooner were the Officers, whose Conduct had been so notorious, got rid of the Dread that attended them in having the Rates quashed, which on a fair and impartial Hearing would assuredly have been done; but they returned to their old Game again: For before the Justices could have any Meeting at all to inspect and settle their

Accounts, Notice was given in the Church, that on *Thursday* the 5th of *July* a Vestry would be held to consult about the Poor's Rates. Now what could be rationally expected from this Notice, but to consult in what Shape the Pound Rate, ordered by the Court, should be made? That is, either by the Land Tax, or Scavenger's Books, or by the real Rents of the Houses. If the last had been pursued, which would certainly have been the most equitable, it would have taken up some Time to have adjusted it: And what Interval more proper for Enquiry, than during the Time that the Books of the Parish were settling? But instead of this, there was a mighty Possé brought on purpose to vote against the Pound Rate itself; and thereby to fly in the Faces of the greatest Number of Justices of the Peace as perhaps ever sat on the Bench on the like Occasion: And instead of quieting the Disputes in the Parish, so cordially recommended from the Chair, effectually to raise the greater Disturbances  
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amongst them. But a Pound Rate they would not have, and so they voted it, and gloried as much in their Numbers as if they had obtained a signal Victory; which if they would but seriously and impartially consider, they would find it was only a Conquest over common Sense, Justice, and good Manners; and that in the End they never will be able to make their partial, discretionary Rates again, however supported by self-interested Numbers; but if they should attempt it, they will find it no easy Matter to get any of the Justices of the Peace to sign them; but if through the private Interest or Inadvertency of any, they should, they may be assured they will be appealed against again, in much greater Numbers than hitherto they have been: And it cannot be imagined that the Justices of the Peace on the Bench will tamely suffer their own Orders and Recommendations so publicly passed, to be thus notoriously disregarded and insulted.

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The Accounts relating to the Poor, for 1742 and 1743 having been now examined by the Justices, it appears, that had any Care been taken to have had them adjusted in due Time; and had the Justices who signed the Over-rates seen that they had been made in a legal Way, and the Officers done their Duty in collecting them, that instead of having a double Rate made for the Quarter from *Michaelmas* to *Christmas* last, the single Rates themselves might have been considerably reduced; for there is now in the Hands of the late Officers about three hundred and fifty Pound in Cash, a great Part of which is in the Hands of the late Churchwarden for the Year 1742. And there are moreover very large Sums of Money still uncollected, and especially on the Over-rates for 1742, there being in one of the Divisions alone upwards of one hundred Pound on that Account uncollected, besides what is so in the other Divisions too; as well for the single Rates throughout the whole



whole Parish; all which Sums put together are so very considerable as may be sufficient to maintain the Poor for at least six Months to come, if not much longer, especially if the Accounts for 1740 and 1741 were to be examined into in the same Manner as those for 1742 and 1743 have been. As to the Accounts for the Year 1741, in which there was an Over-rate for the whole Year, they are not as yet signed by the Justices; indeed one of them, (Mr. S——t) hath been so good as to cast up the Churchwardens Book for that Year, and attested it under his own Hand, that it is cast up right: But as to the Merits of the Account itself he hath not been pleased to attest any thing, neither hath any other Justice thought fit to sign it in any Shape whatever, so that this as well as some other Accounts may be Matter for a future Enquiry.

As the Appellants have been charged with raising Heats and Disturbances in the Parish, and have been insulted thereon; it is a Debt of Justice they owe to themselves,

selves, to set this Affair in a true Light, that thereby the World may be convinced whether they have deserved Reproach or Commendation herein.

It cannot be denied, but that it was high Time to have the Churchwardens and Overseers Accounts settled, which had lain so long most scandalously neglected; and which might have been much longer so, and still grown worse and worse, if this seasonable Appeal had not procured the immediate Settlement of them; and the Parish Money resting in their Hands ordered to be paid in to the present Churchwardens; from which many Advantages will flow to the present, as well as future Inhabitants.

It cannot be denied by any judicious and impartial Person whatever, but that a Pound Rate is much more just and equitable than what is commonly called a discretionary one; and that it is liable to fewer Exceptions. The popular Plea, that in so large a Parish as this is, a Pound Rate, with some respect had to personal Estates likewise,  
cannot

cannot be well made, is fully answer'd by the Practice of the neighbouring great Parishes around us, viz. those of *St. Giles, Cripple-Gate, Clerkenwell*, and *St. Luke's*, who have all of them had their discretionary Rates formerly : But Time and Experience have taught them to have Recourse to Pound Rates now : And if these populous Parishes make them, why cannot *Shoreditch* Parish do so too ? And if any Person hath a Mind to see in what Manner those Rates are made in *St. Luke's*, which is a much larger Parish than this, both in respect to Houses and Inhabitants too, he may peruse the Books of *Mr. Pelah*, when he was one of the Overseers there, which are very correct, and worthy of Imitation. And as so great a Number of Justices on the Bench (with the particular Sanction of *Mr. C—nd—r* also) have thought fit to order a Pound Rate in this Parish, for the future, Respect being had to the personal Estates likewise, and this by Way of Compromise too, it cannot but be truly acceptable to a great Number

of the Inhabitants who had so long desired, but not been able to obtain it, till this Appeal so solemnly procured it for them.

It cannot be denied, but the late Over-rates have been excessively burthensom to the Parishioners, and created great Differences amongst them, which it is hoped this Appeal will prevent for the future: For had not the Officers been obliged to have settled their Accounts, and pay their Balances, they might have still went on making these Over-rates; though there had been no more Occasion for them, than there was for that which was appealed against, from *Michaelmas* to *Christmas* last.

It cannot be denied, but the late Officers committed many great Excesses in the Distresses they made on many of the Inhabitants: And as this Appeal has shewn the Notoriety of the Facts in so publick a Manner, it is hoped it will prevent the Cruelty of them for the future; for if this Appeal had not been lodged, and the discretionary Rates had went on, and the Justices had been so  
hasty



hasty in granting their Warrants as they did for the last Quarter, and no Care had been taken to have brought any of the Officers to account, who could have been easy in their Houses from the vexatious Distresses that might have been made, especially when they had such late Examples before them?

And has not this Appeal, by obliging the Officers to bring their Books into the Court, occasioned the Payment of several Sums of Money to the Use of the Parish, which otherwise might not have been paid? For however some People may be easy in being privately marked, if they can but save their Money; yet they may not care to be publickly so.

And is there not this farther Advantage by the Appeal? That now the Accounts are looked into, it is said, that instead of loading the Parishioners with Over-rates for the future, it is proposed to lower the single Rates themselves no less than one fourth; so that it is hoped, that the Pound Rate,

if fairly assessed on Houses and Lands, will be very easy : It having been already agreed that the Scavengers Rate shall be lowered from five Pence to four Pence in the Pound this Year.

Moreover, if it should so happen, that there should be Occasion for any of the Parishioners, who may think themselves aggrieved, to appeal hereafter ; they may hope to be heard without being under the Necessity of applying at a great Expence to the Court of *King's Bench* for a *Mandamus*. This Appeal has shewn, that they have a Right to be heard : And that their Appeals are not to be arbitrarily rejected without Cause.

And lastly may not this Appeal be the Occasion of having other Accounts which have lain some Years unsettled, as well as those of the Poor, to be adjusted : And may it not be the Occasion in bringing some Matters to Light, where the Parish may have been injuriously treated ?

The Conduct of two of the Scavengers, in one of the Divisions, for the last Year, is very extraordinary; and seems to call for a publick Enquiry.

If these Things, or indeed any of them, are Advantages to the Parish resulting from, or occasioned by the late Appeal, and the Facts beforementioned be true, as it is insisted on they are, it will be no difficult Matter to determine whether the Appellants have deserved well of the Parish in general, or not: Nor to whom the Name of *Refractory Persons* ought to be properly applied.

The Offices in such a large Parish as this are certainly very troublesome: And it is no good Sign when Interest is made to obtain them.

That the Parish hath not been under the best Oeconomy of late, and that private Interest hath been too much pursued, is but too evident: But it is not hereby intended to reflect on all those who have born Offices therein; for it is not doubted but there have been some worthy  
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Men amongst them, as well as some **worthy**: But it is the great Misfortune of the Parish that the Vestries are so ill attended as they are; for if Gentlemen would but agree to attend them themselves, the Case might be extremely altered for the better; then would they see how the Rates were made, and if the Money arising from thence, as well as from the Rent Rolls and Donations, &c. was properly applied or not; and what was become of the publick Writings of the Parish, which are so essentially necessary to be had.

In short, if the Peace and Quiet of the Parish is to be henceforth preserved, it is by acting agreeable to the Directions of the Court by making a Pound Rate for the future: But if any Persons rather chuse to prefer their Resentments or private Interests before that of the Publick, and to fly in the Face of the Court by opposing it, they will certainly raise thereby the Heats and Animosities amongst the Inhabitants, to a much greater Degree



gree than they have hitherto been ; which it is hoped may not be the unhappy Case, by those who wish well to the Parish in general, though they have, in this Affair, been very much misrepresented, and ill treated by some Persons therein : But this was no more than what was to be expected : For whoever goes about to stem the Torrent of Injustice and Oppression in a Parish, rivetted as it were by Time, and by Numbers, ought not only to be prepared to meet with Affronts and Menaces from those whose Interests or Reputations may suffer by the Enquiry, but to despise them too ; and they should moreover be determined beforehand to go through the Undertaking with Resolution, whatever Difficulties may be purposely thrown in the Way to deter them.

Perseverance hath obtained some desirable Things for the Good of the Parishioners already, and is still capable of procuring many more, if the least Spirit of Unanimity does but exert itself amongst them.

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When the stubborn Diseases of a Parish require a Cure, it should be the hearty Concurrence of many to effect it: And in such a Case, the Proverb of, *What is every Body's Business, is no Body's Business*, ought to be inverted.

It is now in the Power of the present Churchwardens to be very useful to the Parish, if they please. The late Appeal has opened the Way by getting the Accounts of the Poor settled for 1742 and 1743, but there still remains Matter in Plenty to be done. The Rates to the Poor for 1741 amounted to at least two thousand Pound, which Accounts are not as yet settled, though Mr. C—nd—r was pleased to affirm on the Bench, that they were, and the Vestry Clerk had from Time to Time asserted the same: These Accounts as well as the Accounts for the Sums uncollected for 1740 may not be unworthy of Notice.

The Balances still laying in some of the Scavengers Hands for some Years last past call for Inspection; and the Accounts of

some of those for the last Year in a particular Manner ought to be looked into, especially as one of the Rakers is about prosecuting the Scavengers for the Non-payment of what is due to him; and the other has severely complained, and not without Cause. If a Committee was chosen out of each of the three Divisions of those who had no private Interest to serve, or any other Ends to gratify, but what are conducive to the real Benefit of the Parish, to inspect the Accounts and the State of the Parish in general, and to make a Report thereof to the Vestry, it could not but be very satisfactory to the Inhabitants in general; for as this salutary Work is now begun, it is Pity but that it should be fully completed; and this might prevent an Application to the Court for the future; which otherwise may be unavoidable.

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